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**Connecticut Society of
Certified Public Accountants
(CTCPA)**

Testimony Concerning

**Governor's Bill ("GB") No. 6842
"An Act Implementing the Budget Recommendations of the
Governor Concerning General Government"**

**Respectfully Submitted to the
Government Administration and Elections Committee**

by

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Senator Cassano, Representative Jutila, members of the Government Administration and Elections Committee, I'm Art Renner, a CPA and the executive director of the 6,000-member Connecticut Society of Certified Public Accountants. I'm testifying on behalf of Connecticut's CPA profession in strong opposition to the proposed changes in Section 5 of Governor's Bill Number 6842, "An Act Implementing the Budget Recommendations of the Governor Concerning General Government."

Section 5 would substantially change Section 20-280 of the General Statutes in a manner detrimental to the state, its citizens, and the accounting profession.

Specifically, it would remove the State Board of Accountancy from the Office of the Secretary of the State and relocate it to the Department of Consumer Protection. This would eliminate the State Board's staff, including its acting director, who also serves as the State Board's staff attorney on enforcement issues.

The annual fee for a CPA license in Connecticut is \$565. As you can see on the chart attached to my written testimony, this is far and away the very highest CPA license fee in the United States. For that fee, Connecticut CPAs expect and deserve a functioning regulatory body with staff possessing specific knowledge of this very technical profession. Transferring the State Board of Accountancy would eliminate this knowledgeable staff.

Generating \$2.5 million annually in revenue, the State Board takes in almost 10 times the \$300,000 it spends -- the amount of proposed savings by this proposed transfer to the Department of Consumer Protection.

This \$2.5 million in annual revenue is made up of license fees and fines and penalties collected. Without a knowledgeable staff, the fines and penalties portion of revenue would decline dramatically because the state, through the

Department of Consumer Protection, would be unable to enforce the statutes, which are highly technical in their nature.

Existing accounting statutes call for annual continuing education requirements, some of which are very specific in their nature. These statutes also require CPA firms to undergo periodic peer reviews of their practices. Both of these highly technical requirements would become virtually unenforceable without dedicated, knowledgeable staff.

One year ago a new State Board was appointed by Governor Malloy. At the same time, the leadership of the staff was assigned to a new individual. Over the last 12 months, the State Board has made tremendous progress in enhancing its service to both the public and the profession. It would be a tragedy for all concerned to transfer the State Board to the Department of Consumer Protection.

Again, thank you for the opportunity to express the strong opposition of Connecticut's CPA profession to the proposed changes in Section 5 of Governor's Bill Number 6842, "An Act Implementing the Budget Recommendations of the Governor Concerning General Government."

Certified Public Accounting (CPA) Licensing Renewal Fees By State

State	\$ Fee	How Frequently License Must Be Renewed
Alabama	\$75	Yearly
Alaska	\$290	Biennially
Arizona	\$300	Biennially
Arkansas	\$110	Yearly
California	\$50	Biennially
Colorado	\$75	Biennially
Connecticut	\$565	Yearly
Delaware	\$131	Biennially
Florida	\$105	Biennially
Georgia	\$50	Biennially
Hawaii	\$147	Biennially
Idaho	\$120	Yearly
Illinois	\$120	Every 3 years
Indiana	Year 1-\$85, Year 2-\$60, Year 3-\$35	Every 3 years
Iowa	\$100	Yearly
Kansas	\$150	Yearly
Kentucky	\$100	Biennially
Louisiana	\$100	Yearly
Maine	\$75	Yearly
Maryland	\$56	Yearly
Massachusetts	\$161	Biennially
Michigan	\$100	Yearly
Minnesota	\$100	Yearly
Mississippi	\$100	Yearly
Missouri	\$80	Biennially
Montana	\$150	Yearly
Nebraska	\$175	Biennially
Nevada	\$120 (Credit Card) / \$140 Check	Yearly
New Hampshire	\$275	Every 3 years
New Jersey	\$90	Every 3 years
New Mexico	\$130	Yearly
New York	\$292	Every 3 Years
North Carolina	\$60	Yearly
North Dakota	85	Yearly
Ohio	\$155	Every 3 Years
Oklahoma	\$150	Yearly
Oregon	\$160	Biennially
Pennsylvania	\$100	Biennially
Rhode Island	\$375	Every 3 years
South Carolina	\$80	Yearly
South Dakota	\$50	Yearly
Tennessee	\$120	Biennially
Texas	\$47 (+\$200 professional fee)	Every 3 years
Utah	\$63	Yearly
Vermont	\$120	Biennially
Virginia	\$60	Yearly
Washington	\$230	Every 3 years
West Virginia	\$85	Yearly
Wisconsin	\$82	Biennially
Wyoming	\$200 (-\$10 if completed online)	Yearly